

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 EUR-25

NIC-01 RSR-01 /159 W

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P R 311623Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6509

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON VELASCO'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: MARKING JULY 28 INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY, PRESIDENT VELASCO READ MO OTONOUS NINE-MINUTE ADDRESS TO NATION. SPEECH WAS VELASCO'S RESPONSE TO RIGHT AND LEFTWING CRITICISM AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO DEFINE IDEOLOGY OF HIS REVOLUTION. THERE WERE SEVERE WORDS FOR "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" AND PRESS CRITICS AND NO HOPE WAS OFFERED FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY. VELASCO INSISTED THAT PERUVIAN MILITARY WERE UNITED BEHIND REVOLUTION WHOSE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE TO SOLVE CERRO DE PASCO "PROBLEM" AND PROMULGATE NEW LAWS ON SOCIAL PROPERTY AND FOR THE PEASANT AND AMAZON JUNGLE INHABITANTS, LONG IGNORED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS.

1. IN WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS A FUNDAMENTALLY POLITICAL MESSAGE, VELASCO ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE REVOLUTION BENEFITS WORKERS AND PEASANTS AND NOT PRE-1968 VESTED INTERESTS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND UPCOMING

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LAW ON SOCIAL PROPERTY WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY CREATE THE

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE TO BE ENTIRELY OWNED BY THE WORKER (IN CONTRAST TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES OR THOSE OF THE "REFORMED PRIVATE SECTOR" WITH THEIR INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES). HE CLEARLY REJECTED BOTH CAPITALIST AND COMMUNIST FORMS OF SOCIETY BECAUSE IN BOTH, ACCORDING TO VELASCO, POWER AND WEALTH ARE CONCENTRATED IN NON-PRODUCTIVE HANDS. INSTEAD, VELASCO SAID, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH TRANSFERRED POWER TO WORKERS' GROUPS.

2. VELASCO LAMBASTED SEGMENTS OF THE PRESS FOR CONTINUALLY MISREPRESENTING POLICIES OF THE REVOLUTION. WHILE NOT NAMING ANY NEWSPAPERS, HE WAS CLEARLY REFERRING TO LIMA'S PRINCIPAL DAILIES: EL COMERCIO AND LA PRENSA WHICH WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO FURTHER MUZZLE THEIR ALREADY SUBDUED CRITICISM OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

3. VELASCO ALSO ATTACKED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES AND ANALYZED IN DETAIL SEVEN DIFFERENCE TECHNIQUES USED BY ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION TO UNDERMINE MILGOV. BULK OF CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED AT CONSERVATIVE SECTORS, ALTHOUGH HE DECLARED ONLY THING REVOLUTION HAD IN COMMON WITH IOMMUNISM WAS REJECTION OF PRE-1968 SOCIETY.

4. THE PRESIDENT INSISTED THAT THE MILITARY WERE UNITED BEHIND THE REVOLUTION AND THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN A CONTINUITY CRISIS DURING HIS RECENT ILLNESS. VELASCO SAID HE WAS FULLY RECOVERED WHICH, INDEED, HE SEEMED TO BE.

5. HE SAID THAT THE MILITARY WOULD NEITHER RETURN TO THEIR BARRACKS NOR WOULD THE CONSTITUTION OF 1933 BE ENFORCED BECAUSE THESE TWO STEPS WOULD FINISH THE REPOLUTION.

6. SPEECH AIMED CLEARLY AT CRITICS OF MILGOV'S POLICIES WHICH HAD GROWN INCREASINGLY VOCAL AS INDEPENDENCE DAY APPROACHED. BOTH LA PRENSA AND EL COMERCIO HAD BEEN CARRYING REPORTS OF LAND REFORM ABUSES AS WELL AS DECLARATIONS BY RESPECTED PERUVIAN CIVILIANS TELLING MILITARY TO RETURN TO BARRACKS. THERE WAS NO SIGN, HOWEVER, OF MAJOR NEW REFORMS OR INDICATION REGIME WOULD BECOME EITHER MORE OPPRESSIVE, MORE

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DEMOCRATIC OR IN ANY WAY RETREAT FROM PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED REVOLUTIONARY COURSE.

BELCHER

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